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ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY

NEWS

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ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT

ASSEMBLY OF LIBRARIANS OF THE AMERICAS

Under the combined auspices of the State Department and the Library of Congress, thirty leading librarians from the American Republics attended a Conference during the month of May. Army Medical Library personnel were active in the Assembly. Dr. Claudius F. Mayer was the Library's representative on the Bibliography Committee, Miss M. Ruth MacDonald, Miss Irene Jones, and Miss Winifred Johnson were on the Technical Processes Committee, and Mr. Scott Adams and Mr. Leslie K. Falk on the Acquisitions Committee.

At daily sessions, committee meetings and seminars, the Assembly explored many problems of concern to both the Americas.

DR. HENRY SIGERIST HONORED

A dinner in honor of Dr. Henry E. Sigerist was held at the Plaza Hotel in New York on May 9, 1947. First among the honors and tokens of recognition, a complete set of the *Index Catalogue* was presented to Dr. Sigerist. This set was of particular interest because it had belonged to Dr. Arnold Carl Klebs, also a native of Switzerland and a great admirer of the *Index Catalogue*, who, at his death, left it with his library to Yale University. After long negotiations the bequest finally arrived in this country, but while the book collection with the famous herbals remains in New Haven, the *Index Catalogue* starts a new odyssey back to Switzerland where, in the villa on the shores of Lake Lugano, it will be used in Dr. Sigerist's projected history of medicine.

DR. CUTLER RECEIVES DSM

Dr. Elliott C. Cutler, Honorary Consultant to the Army Medical Library, was recently awarded the Oak-Leaf to the Distinguished Service Medal. The presentation was made by Secretary of War Robert Patterson at Dr. Cutler's home in Boston on May 15, Dr.

Cutler, who is Mosley Professor of Surgery at Harvard University, received the award for services as Chief Surgical Consultant in the European Theater of Operations. Dr. Cutler's first Distinguished Service Medal was awarded as a result of his services in the first World War.

DR. WILLIAM JEROME WILSON NAMED CHIEF OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE DIVISION

Dr. William Jerome Wilson has been appointed Chief of the Library's History of Medicine Division effective June 13, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Max H. Fisch and temporarily filled by Mr. Robert Austin. Dr. Wilson comes to the Library with a distinguished background in the history of science. During 12 years' service at the Library of Congress, Dr. Wilson directed the compilation of the *Catalog of Latin Vernacular and Alchemical Manuscripts in the United States and Canada,* was joint editor with Seymour de Ricci of the *Census of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the United States and Canada* and was Supervisor for the *Annotated Bibliography of American History.* He is a member of the Editorial Board of Isis, of the Bibliographic Society of America, the History of Science Society and the Society of American Archivists.

CURRENT LIST

Prof. Wilhelm H. Hoffmann of Havana, Cuba, in acknowledging receipt of some recent issues of the *Current List of Medical Literature,* writes under date of May 16, 1947: "This List is of greatest value, really indispensable for the research worker and very helpful for any scientifically working person, which means the whole profession."

Dr. Hoffman, formerly of the Instituto Finlay, is now retired. His contributions to the study of yellow fever are well known.

REQUESTS FOR LITERATURE LISTS

Literature lists compiled by the Reference Division in response to recent requests include the subjects of reticulum cell sarcoma of bone, infectious mononucleosis, Cushing's syndrome, bilateral simultaneous tubal pregnancy, and amebiasis. Since these lists are typewritten, it is impossible to fill requests for the complete series. However, any library or individual will upon request, be supplied any one or two lists which may be of special interest.

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

A shipment of seventeen serials and fourteen books constitute the first received from the Library's commercial agent in Berlin since the war.

Some recent acquisitions of important documents for the Library's collections are:

The first volume (Abstses-Glae) of a monumental Russian medical encyclopedia, *Entsiklopedicheskii Slovar Voennoi,* edited by E. I. Smirnov, Moskva, 1946.

Wiener Beiträge zur Urologie, a new medical continuation from Austria, Hrsg. von Prof. Dr. Richard Ubelhör, Wien, Maudrich, 1947, Band 1, (monograph by Karl Hutter).

U. S. Coal Mines Administration. A medical survey of the bituminous coal industry, 1947.

Through the interest and generosity of Mr. Frank D. Ashburn and Mrs. Virginia Ashburn Rose, the History of Medicine Division of the Army Medical Library has recently received a collection of literary notes and manuscripts written by the late Colonel Percy M. Ashburn, Librarian of the Army Medical Library from 1927 to 1932. Colonel Ashburn was a regular contributor to medical literature but is perhaps best known for his books *The Elements of Military Hygiene* (1920) and *A History of the Medical Department of the United States Army* (1929). Colonel Ashburn's *Ranks of Death* edited and completed by his son, Frank D. Ashburn, has just been published posthumously.

AML PERSONNEL ACTIVE IN SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

Miss Clara Heck, Reference Division, AML, will serve as chairman of the Biological Sciences Group of the Special Libraries Association, Washington, D. C. Chapter, for the 1947-1948 season.

Mrs. Eleanor M. Coffyn, Acting Chief of the Reference Division, AML, has been appointed secretary of the National Board of Officers of the group. She is also representative on the Committee of the Union List of Serials for the Medical Library Association.

A NEWERE CODE

(From *ye Asteroid,* May 1684)

The following satire on medical codes is composed of excerpts from a pamphlet, probably late 19th century, in the collection of the History of Medicine Division.

At a meetinge helde at ye rooms of ye Palezoic Medicale Association, for ye preservation of antiques, ye Doctor Cotton Mather Bigot presented ye followinge amendments to ye Code beneathe:

No physician or leech shall have an opinion of his owne. Opinions lead to differences. True goodliness is inseparable from peace, and peace incompatible withe difference of opinion. Let us have peace. At our age it is a necessity.

No manne must consulte with a homeopathist, but he maye consulte with a rubber, a patent medicine-manne, a bracer, or an electric clothing manufacturer.

Only muzzled domgas wille be permitted. No upholder of our Code will give blue pille or quinine for alle diseases. All disease is neither "biliousness" or "malaria", as some charge.

A feelinge of kindness to alle, and ye encouragement of home industry shoulde prompt ye specialiste to avail himselfe of ye remedies of struggling scientists. Lydia Pinkhame, and ye Golden Discovery of Dr. Pearse should not be overlooked.

Ye standarde drinke of ye doctor shall be cold tea.

Ye vigorous language is expressive, but not kindly, and should not be used unlesse in ye emergency. Ye orthopedist maye, in exceptional instances, punctuate wyth ye oathe.

Progress in ye medicyl arte is incompatable with ye Trades' Unionism.

Ye concluding sections are to be found in ye Blue lawyes of ye State of Connecticut.

A faylure to keep ye laws shall cause ye culprit to bee brought before ye council of ten, and secretly sentenced according to ye offense.

First.—He shalle be holden to attend ye meetings and listen to ye reminiscences of ye oldest member.

Second.—He shall be burnt at ye stake.

Third.—He shall be sluggede.

If ye manne be pure of hart, he shall be rewarded by—

First.—A diploma.

Second.—A box of sample drugs.

Third.—He shalle have hys bust putte in ye Chamber of Horrors.

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